

Newsletter



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- The project activity continues with new publications of the research team:
 - Ileana Tache, „Political economy theories confronted with national-populist parties' resurgence across the European Union”, *Rivista di Studi Politici Internazionali*, Gennaio-Marzo 2018, Anno 85, pp. 35-56 (a journal coordinated by professor Maria Grazia Melchionni).

This paper aims at stimulating reflection on the risk that the populist and ultra-nationalist trends are having on the European continent.

The relevance of this paper for the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence is that of including in the analysis some parties from the Eastern and Southern Europe, such as Golden Dawn in Greece and Jobbik in Hungary. So, the paper signaled that Golden Dawn, regularly described as neo-Nazi by news media and academic sources, with some members often responsible for anti-semitic graffiti, represents a serious threat for democracy and European integration; this party being indeed staunchly Eurosceptic, opposing Greece's EU membership and participation in the Eurozone. As regards Jobbik, the paper also illustrated how this party has long campaigned for Hungary to leave the EU and how recently this is no more on the party's agenda, as it is believed that the migration crisis offers populist parties a chance to transform the EU.

- Nicolae Marinescu, "The Impact of the Changeover to the Euro for Eastern European Companies", Information Society and Sustainable Development, 5th edition, Targu-Jiu, Apr. 2018, ISBN 978-973-144-889-3.

The introduction of the euro as a single currency in Eastern European countries, the new member states of the European Union, has sparked, and still sparks, a great deal of debate concerning the effects that arise from this changeover. Although macroeconomic effects of switching to the euro have been analyzed extensively, microeconomic effects have received far less attention. This paper tries to bring a contribution in this field and fill the existing gap in the literature. It investigates the impact of the introduction of the euro on Eastern European companies. Based on a thorough desktop research, the aim of the paper is twofold. Firstly, it shows the estimated effects companies will experience when their respective country will make the changeover to the euro. Secondly, it analyzes the measures these companies will have to take so as to ensure an efficient transition to the euro, by trying to reap the benefits and mitigate hardships linked to this move. The results of the analysis consist in a kit of operational measures, valuable to owners and managers of Eastern European companies who want to prepare properly for the changeover to the euro.

- On 15 April 2018, Ileana Tache, the project coordinator, was invited at RTT local television at the programme "The Brasov Secrets". The discussion topic was how Romania complies at present with the nominal convergence criteria of the euro adoption, taking into account the recent rise in the inflation rate at about 5%. These recent economic evolutions were compared with those of other South-Eastern European countries, especially with the neighboring Bulgaria.

The participation in this TV debate was also an excellent opportunity to present the goals and achievements of the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence.

The TV programme can be viewed at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DYNdBBpWBMg>

and

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SycAhNMvHZ8>

- Special guest in the Weekly Seminars

On 20 April 2018, Professor Gabriela Dragan, general director of the European Institute of Romania, was invited by the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence to present the lecture "The Romanian Presidency at the Council of the EU". The structure of her presentation included the following topics:

1. The role of the Council in the institutional and decisional architecture of the EU
2. The experience of some previous presidencies (priorities, budget, results)
3. The main challenges of Semester I 2019: Brexit, preparing elections for the European Parliament elections and Sibiu Summit
4. The role of the European Institute of Romania in preparing the Romanian Presidency at the Council of the EU.

The lecture was followed by a session of debates and questions addressed by the students of the Faculty of Economic Sciences and Business Administration.



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